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A 164 WX

BULLETIN

FIRST LEAD NIXON BOOK

WASHINGTON, MARCH 20 (AP)-THE WHITE HOUSE, ANSWERING A CHARGE BY FORMER VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON, INSISTED TODAY THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS UNAWARE OF U.S. SUPPORT OF A POSSIBLE CUBAN INVASION ATTEMPT UNTIL AFTER HE WON THE 1960 ELECTION

JC 1252 PES

A 165 WX

BULLETIN MATTER

WASHINGTON--FIRST ADD FIRST LEAD NIXON BOOK x x x 1960 ELECTION.

PRESS SECRETARY PIERRE SALINGER SAID KENNEDY HAD RECEIVED TWO BRIEFINGS FROM ALLEN DULLES, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, DURING THE 1960 CAMPAIGN, BUT THESE CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF A BROAD REVIEW OF THE WORLD SITUATION.

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY QUICKLY FOLLOWED UP WITH RELEASE OF A MEMORANDUM FROM ALLEN W. DULLES, FORMER CIA DIRECTOR, WHICH EXPRESSED BELIEF THERE HAS BEEN AN HONEST MISUNDERSTANDING.

THE MEMORANDUM, ADDRESSED TO JOHN A. MCCONE, THE PRESENT CIA HEAD, SAID:

"I HAVE READ THE PORTIONS OF MR. NIXON'S BOOK WITH REGARD TO THE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD SEN. KENNEDY HAD BEEN GIVEN BY ME WITH RESPECT TO CUBA DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

"I HAVE ALSO SEEN THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY ON THIS SUBJECT.

"THERE HAS BEEN HERE, I BELIEVE, AN HONEST MISUNDERSTANDING. THIS WAS PROBABLY DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE MESSAGE MR. NIXON WRITES HE RECEIVED AS TO THESE BRIEFINGS.

"THE CUBAN SITUATION WAS OF COURSE DEALT WITH IN THE BRIEFINGS I GAVE TO SEN. KENNEDY. THE LAST BRIEFING I GAVE HIM WAS OVER A MONTH BEFORE THE DEBATE IN WHICH THE ISSUE AROSE.

"MY BRIEFINGS WERE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS ON THE WORLD SITUATION. THEY DID NOT COVER OUR OWN GOVERNMENT'S PLANS OR PROGRAMS FOR ACTION, OVERT OR COVERT."

NIXON ALLEGES IN HIS BOOK, "SIX CRISES," THAT KENNEDY "WAS ENDANGERING THE SECURITY" OF THE CUBAN OPERATION BY CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS.

NIXON REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO A DECLARATION BY KENNEDY THAT THE UNITED STATES OUGHT TO "STRENGTHEN THE NON-BATISTA DEMOCRATIC ANTI-CASTRO FORCES IN EXILE AND IN CUBA ITSELF WHO OFFER EVENTUAL HOPE OF OVERTHROWING CASTRO."

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THE FORMER VICE PRESIDENT, WHO LOST TO KENNEDY BY A NARROW MARGIN, SAID KENNEDY HAS BEEN GIVEN A SECRET BRIEFING IN WHICH HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER WAS TRAINING CUBAN EXILES FOR AN INVASION.

JC 1259 PES NM